

a little one horse carriage for Siere. He had a most  
amusing driver, and in the process of his horse Fritz,  
who beguiled the way with stories & conundrums, &c. &c.  
Fritz she seemed in loving companionship, as he would  
call "Fritz" & a gentle, whistling pique & waken him up,  
& Fritz would shake his head & trot on. At Tourtemau  
we stopped. I gave Fritz some water, & he appeared from  
the inn with a large piece of <sup>dark</sup> bread, which he cut up  
& fed him with! - We went to another Hotel nearer the  
Station at Siere, & was shown into a most fascinating  
room West, large & panelled all over, & a great Eastern style  
with a coat of arms in relief upon it; evidently an old  
chateau turned into an inn, & this had been a salon,  
looking out with its two big windows, into a formal, old-  
fashioned garden, & across the low wall to the high mts.,  
the green valley between, & the cultivated <sup>slopes</sup> ~~valley~~ running  
up the hill-sides. At Siere the Rhone valley is at its  
finest <sup>& richest</sup> ~~best~~ <sup>is</sup> my pleasure for the N.E. station, but Dr. Gray  
was anxious to get on, so we made a long push to  
renew on the Eastern and the lake of Geneva, getting  
there at 8 o'clock. Cold air! was, the change from  
the cold mt. air to hot valley was very great. But we  
were grand, went to the fine Hotel D'Azorn, took a chamber  
for an premier & spare me up stairs, had tea in our  
room, & certainly it was as truly comfortable & luxurious

37

11  
Finished July 26 - '89 - Interlachen

My dear Sue, I left myself on the top of the  
Riffel on Monday Ev., with the important  
question before me, "how to get down?" - I was  
really afraid to ride on a horse, it was so steep;  
& then too, the motion is so uncomfortable going  
down hill; so I decided to walk & stay as much  
time as I chose to it. The others were to go down  
& push on before us, as they were to go to Phamouin  
on their way to Geneva, while Dr. Gray & I went  
direct - A large party left that morn. - Mrs. Cator  
held some first, & Mrs. Cator, Reenie & an English  
lady followed us on horseback, L. & K. went in  
advance with a young American (Mr. Small,) to  
go & see the fine waterfall at the side of the  
former glacier, while Charles soon left our slow  
progress, to go with the mule with all our baggage,  
so as to arrange for their getting on - With many  
stoppings to rest, & then look at the flowers, or  
sitting where I got a grand view of the glacier &  
the arch at the bottom out of which rushed the river,  
we reached a new zone of flowers, & then trees, & so  
down & down, taking 3 1/2 hours for what is ordinarily  
done in 1 1/2 - At the bottom we met Mr. Thomas Chubb

& their friend Mr. Womer, who had walked from Zermatt to meet us, & a little further on a horse Chas had sent back for me - I was very glad to ride, for I was getting very weak-kneed, & so I got to the hotel before them & crawled tremblingly up stairs! - I thot after resting a hour, when I went down again, I should never be able to bend my knees! And for a day or two they were quite swollen & lame, so that bending them was painful, & I was as upright as possible - Of course tho I was very tired, but it certainly did me no permanent harm, & I went back to Geneva stronger than I started - We had a very pleasant dinner with the Church & left at 4 for St. Niklaus in one of the little raijans - It was wonderful to see how the stream had swollen since we went up, I suppose so many warm days had melted the snow; they had run across the road & marked it, & when you heard the constant rattle of the stones rolling in the bed of one brook you got some idea of the force of these mountain streams - We had a heavy thunder shower before reaching St. Niklaus, & were glad ev. of all our wraps & waterproofs. Fortunately they took all the wetting - We found a good many of our mount. party there - Heard C. & the

girls had gone on to Triip - I was rather discomfited on trying to climb into bed, but felt better next morning, & we mounted our horses at 8 1/2 - Found round the little church, which was burnt down once, then swept away by an avalanche in 1850, & destroyed by an earthquake in '55! Indeed the whole town looks as if it might be swept away! And to under a very doubtful looking sky, took our winding way towards Triip, up & down - Presently came drops, & then quicker, we splattered up waterproofs & opened umbrellas, & it set in for a steady pour - There was nothing to do but go on, & we met sundry parties going up the valley - At Stalden, the half way resting place, we coasted the Scotch lassie & her brother & Mr. Crall on foot, & three English on horseback & joined them under the little roof, where they were stopping a while - Soon we were all on our way again, & the rain stopped, & a nice breeze came up, & we were finely dried - Proostingly, with triip in full sight, & only 10 minutes off, came another shower, & we were all dampened again! - The valley seemed more beautiful coming down greener & richer - Perhaps it was the contrast to the bare mt. tops - And we bade lingering good byes to our grand mt. peaks - We had some dinner lunch at Triip, & then took

More railway from Martigny - Juffe preferred to  
come by boat. Dr. Gray & I were just getting ready to dine at  
the "Belvedere" - They had come all, but I declined for the  
others, as their return was so uncertain, but accepted  
for tea - But unfortunately they were not at home -  
We had a very pleasant dinner, seating served in  
French style, Mrs. M. Suisse whom I had never seen  
before, & some of the same in my life, at the  
Jou, & some time as he found him - Also a relation  
of Madame de C.'s, very bright & agreeable - The conversation  
was partly in French & then again in English, & Madam  
told many funny stories - We all sat out in a sort of  
covered arcade after dinner, where tea &c. were handed -  
Two gentlemen called, & M. Muller, M. de C.'s assistant  
came - The next morn. we crossed to the little  
Jardin Anglais opposite our hotel to see the <sup>model</sup> ~~map~~ ~~plan~~  
of Mt. Blanc, which is worth seeing well for the ideas of the  
physical geography it gives one - Then we were all busy pack-  
ing & settling up affairs - Just the day we left the botanists  
who were away, & Dr. Gray wanted to see, came back! -  
We all six were off at 4, & reached Sausanne at 6 1/2 -  
We went to the Grand Hotel Bellevue at Pacy on the  
Lake, & Anna & I dined, while Dr. Gray went with K. & L. to  
see if they could hear any thing of the Goodwin & Madroth's,  
& Charles to take tea with Elise - They could not find them,

(2)  
a hotel as I was ever in - The Lake of Geneva stretched  
away soft & lovely, blew our windows, & a little wind,  
new moon glimmered over it - All the appointments  
were most comfortable, & we had earned a good night's  
rest - Next morn. we took our leisure, had breakfast of  
most delicious bread, butter stea & honey, & then took a  
little carriage & drove over to the Castle of Chillon, wh.  
we could see from our window - It is most picturesque  
from the land side, with the round towers & outer  
works, the deep gateway & bridge; the lake side is al-  
most plain, bare wall, the water was defence enough -  
It is now an arsenal of Canton Vaud - A young woman  
appeared as guide, showed us the dungeons, more crypts  
than dungeons like, the old Hall of the Knights, the  
Chamber of Justice, & then up stairs the Duke's room, a  
chummy apartment with remnants of nice frescoes, &  
a large window opening down upon the courtyard,  
whence, I suppose, he could superintend affairs; &  
across a night little passage, & thro'  
a rude door, the Duke's apartment, a little room,  
with a huge corner fire-place we could all stand  
under, but a window looking most charmingly upon  
the Lake, the wall some 40 ft. straight to the water -  
My lady Duchess could not leave her room but my lord  
Duke knew it, & it had rather a prison air; but the stone

window seat was soon as if she sat many an hour as long  
at the view, some might forget a good deal with that  
lovely lake & the exquisitely colored water, the bold,  
picturesque shores opposite, the different ranges of hills  
throwing in contrasted shadows of dark slight as they  
fell off higher & higher, & at the end the grand Mont  
de Midi; snow-capped, & soft clouds just lightly  
touching it here & there - It was one of the loveliest of morn-  
ing days, & Hotel Byron would be a charming place,  
where the purse was full, to spend weeks! - The day  
kept in as beautiful all through, & the rail-road ride  
skirting the lake, from 1 to 3/2, was delightful, all but  
the seat; & oh, such a magnificent view of Mt. Blanc!  
It is one of the grandest impressions it ever seen from  
that distance, the great white mass piled up against  
the sky that seems bluer for the contrast - at first  
you think it cloud, then you see it is too white, too fixed in  
outline, too sharp - The lake with green spots of picturesque  
houses makes just fine ground, the green hills dotted  
villages on the one side the middle distance, then come  
dark mountains with varied outlines, & behind the  
mass of Mt. Blanc - It is one of the most beautiful  
landscapes I ever saw! - There was a nice room at  
the Hotel Byron, where for the next 4 1/2 days I looked  
out on this beautiful water - We had such fine days,

& so rejoiced for them at Chamonix - And the  
Latter was all day long & every day these lovely  
colours, sometimes pale, sometimes purple & blue,  
sometimes only this soft, green-blue colour, whenever  
I lifted my eye to look out, which you may be  
sure I did many a time, as I sat sewing or writing.  
There were a good many little mendings to be done,  
& some shopping, & letters to write - And Friday Evg.  
Dr. Jay & I drove out to Vallon to call on the DeL's, &  
walked with them to the little village of Thon, a  
few minutes from their house, to get the very sun set  
on Mt. Blanc - They do not see the Mt. only the shoulder  
der from the lawn in front of <sup>(or behind?)</sup> the house where we  
found them sitting, the picturesque lake at one side,  
& green landscape stretching away between <sup>them</sup> the pointed  
Mt. <sup>wh.</sup> taking off their view - They are on the S. side the lake.  
Mr. DeL. pointed out the quiet, little house in which  
Simondi lived at Thon - One Evg. I walked over the  
bridge where I was so fond of standing 19 years ago to  
watch the blue water rushing through & breaking into  
white foam, & Sunday Evg. we walked up into the quiet  
little Place St. Pierre, to see again the queer, old church,  
that combines Grecian & Gothic & all sorts of enormities  
in ugly confusion outside - Monday Aft. Charles &  
Katherine & Anna Jay, arrived from Chamonix by Lete

most unnatural necessity of colouring, as rocks, green people  
& the green to intense - Then bore down west morn. at  
7! and at 8 we were started, all on horseback but  
Dr. Gray who preferred to walk, & then up over the steep  
ascent of the Neufraun Mts, looking back on the beautiful  
Austerbrunner valley, & quite above across to the Stambach,  
then through woods, around the summit of the hill, &  
up again, coming out directly opposite the Jungfrau rising  
just before us with its vast precipices of snow & ice & bare  
rock, great snow fields lying along great glaciers rolling down,  
& the beautiful, pure, white Silberhorn pointing up on one  
side - Further on a black range cutting of snow peaks in  
the distance, ~~on the right~~ <sup>left</sup> ~~spot~~, Munch & Ciger rising sharp  
against the sky, bluer than any day I have seen it in Emment  
Land - We made our tent & lie down on reaching the hotel,  
& I went to sleep on the sofa facing the Jungfrau (Kate had  
pulled me in, out of the window) with that fascinating view  
before me I have carried in mind these 19 years! - He dined  
& then after resting again, <sup>after seeing some grand avalanches pour down the Mt. opposite, &</sup> set off for Grindelwald, <sup>hearing</sup> <sup>large</sup> <sup>top</sup> <sup>to</sup> made good-  
bye for the time to the Jungfrau, & wound under the mountains,  
bare, steep slope of Ciger towering grandly over us, & contrasting  
with the rich, green valley beginning to open from below us. The  
descent was hard & steep, & I tried walking part way, riding part  
the way, so that Anna & I got to Grindelwald well tired, & all  
the more glad the warm day's work was over. Ever lovingly, M.G.

(3)

a came back to find us sitting on the little balcony  
outside our window, admiring the beautiful view, which  
as Riggie said, was only too like a fair drop scene in  
the theatre! You see everything was in it generally one has  
& combine artifice, the beautiful lake & grand mts. beyond,  
the well laid out garden below us, skirting the water, the  
little landing stage running out, the row of trees, round  
bushes & tall Lombardy poplar one side, weeping-willows  
on the other, little boats on the lake & the full moon shining  
distantly through a light haze, & below us the princess in blue dress  
dancing over a square, wandering through a garden - walks with her  
dark-robed attendant, scarlet geraniums making a fine mass  
of colour for centre piece - Then we went down for tea in the  
stately drawing hall, where sat members of the court  
at different tables in Pop. costume, French waiters flying  
about - We could only be some great people in disguise as  
more all the splendour, in our plain travelling-dresses! &  
pizzicantly two of the little ballet-dancers got up & stopped  
off, one in a white gown with a cherry over dress, & the  
other in white ruffled muslin & gay sash - I am sorry to say  
in truth they were little American girls dressed in this  
absurd way, I fear very few but - means would wear even  
fashionable clothes in such a place - Then we had gone up to  
our stately rooms again, the music & dancing came up  
to our ears, & the lights shining through on the side

Whence all the romances had gradually disappeared, made  
me expect to see the dark cloaked villain steal out of the  
shadows - One went to bed feeling it was all utterly unreal  
& dream-like! - Charles, next morn., seemed to have no other  
Relates for breakfast; he said Eric had entertained him  
to lunch, & she met us at the rail-way station & say  
good-by, bringing me a beautiful bunch of carnations -  
He had a pleasant ride, after saying farewell to that most  
beautiful lake - Kindly it softened the passing home by  
feeling itself in soft haze, so that all color was gone in one  
universal <sup>neutral</sup> tint - Our ride lay through the more wooded  
part of Switzerland, which so rich & green & happy, &  
at Berne Dr. Gray, Anna & I went upstairs & an excellent  
dinner served in the rail-way station - He had about an hour,  
& then went on to Thun - Charles & L. & K. stayed over a train  
to see the old town, & took up dinner where they liked -  
He had a most magnificent view of the Bernese Alps  
from the rail-way - These snow mts look wonderfully  
spacious, seen so from a low distance, the long white range  
sided up on the horizon! - He was uncommonly fortunate!  
Dr. Gray has been at some three times now, & this is the  
first time he has succeeded in seeing them - The lake  
of Thun, since we took steamer, has been beautiful indeed,  
the green hills, & white peaks behind; & he was in our  
comfortable hotel des Alpes at Interlachen, by 5 1/2 -

Anna I were tired, & had the mirror room, where he  
sat & eat in part of the window, looking out on the  
stately Guggen using white before us, & then growing  
golden pink in the sunset, which shed strange planes  
of light on the bare mountain peaks nearer us, & shifting  
up the green patches of bog, most brilliantly - I had an  
itch that sudden change to cold white, which looks like  
the change from life to death, & then presently few views,  
under the moon - I looked out once or twice in the  
night, it was so beautiful! - Charles & the girls arrived  
about 7 1/2, white clad with their unsuccessful expeditions  
The next morn., we were all busy, with repacking & the  
off some days, packing lists, & c. - At 4 o'clock we  
took a carriage, stowed away wraps & small bags  
were off, up the narrow green valley to Lauterbrunnen  
Here Anna & I were left to pass the night, & the boys  
waited up the lake & Mürren, & got the grand view -  
I took a little walk, & see nearer the Staubbach fall,  
which we could see from our windows, & which does  
not strike me with its beauty - But, windward, the  
stream coming over this straight face of rock 300 ft.  
high so it is all obvious before it reaches the bottom -  
We had another beautiful sun-set at our tea, looking  
up the snow-peaks, & the green slopes, & the narrow  
valley with rich meadows & brown <sup>houses</sup> chalets, a sort of all